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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR  | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|-----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/715,049      | 11/17/2003  | Phillip James Fricano |                     | 3674             |

7590 12/15/2005  
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EXAMINER

VANTERPOOL, LESTER L

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3727

DATE MAILED: 12/15/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

|                              |   |   |  |
|------------------------------|---|---|--|
| <b>Office Action Summary</b> | <b>Application No.</b><br>10/715,049    | <b>Applicant(s)</b><br>FRICANO, PHILLIP JAMES |  |
|                              | <b>Examiner</b><br>Lester L. Vanterpool | <b>Art Unit</b><br>3727                       |  |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☐ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on November 17, 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                  | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)            |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____  |

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112*

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claims 1-4 are rejected as failing to define the invention in the manner required by 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

The claim(s) are narrative in form and replete with indefinite and functional or operational language. The structure which goes to make up the device must be clearly and positively specified. The structure must be organized and correlated in such a manner as to present a complete operative device. The claim(s) must be in one sentence form only. Note the format of the claims in the patent(s) cited.

Applicants labeled sentences "1-4" appear to be individual claims. Applicants labeled sentences "1-4" should be canceled and combined into a single sentence labeled—claim 5 (new). For the purpose of examination, labeled sentences "1-4" will be treated as individual claims.

3. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

4. Claim 1 recites the limitation "the bottom panel and back panel" in first line of claim 1. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

5. Claim 2 recites the limitation "the length of the distal end" in first line of claim 2.

There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

7. Claims 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Getzschman et al., (U.S. Patent Number 6435586). Getzschman et al., discloses a longitudinal flap (19) intermediate and traversing the bottom panel and back panel (column 3, line 43). See Figure 3.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

8. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

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9. Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Getzschman et al., (U.S. Patent Number 6435586) in view of Saffold (U.S. Patent Number 6174012). Getzschman et al., teaches everything except for a longitudinal lobe integrated along the length of the distal end of the longitudinal flap. Saffold teaches longitudinal lobe (400) integrated along the length of the distal end of the longitudinal flap (column 7, line 14) (column 7, line 27). See also Figure 8. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to make the longitudinal flap end of Getzschman with the longitudinal lobe as taught by Stoffold to prevent the carrier from movement and to enhance the security / stability of the carrier by adding a lobe material between the gap of truck bed and truck tailgate without using separate securing devices.

Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yuille et al., (U.S. Patent Number 6401995) in view of Nelsen (U.S. Patent Number 5378034). Yuille et al., discloses the invention substantially as claimed except with a zipper. Nelsen teaches a holding article within the bed of a pick up truck comprising of the zipper (66) (column 3, line 48). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to utilize zippers for truck bed holding articles to enhance the ease of opening and closing instead of using special separate tools.

Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S. C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nelson (U. S. Patent Number 5378034) in view of Young (U.S. Patent Number 6015072). Nelson discloses the invention substantially as claimed except having two zipper pulls. Young teaches two zipper pulls (column 4, line 44). See Figure 5. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have the zippers of Nelson being able to have two zippers as taught by Young to permit attachments such as a lock for security.

### ***Conclusion***

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lester L. Vanterpool whose telephone number is 571-272-8028. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday (8:30 - 5:00) EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nathan Newhouse can be reached on 571-272-4544. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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NATHAN J. NEWHOUSE  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER